

CLOSE TO HOME by John McPherson



Teen angels.

Memories of awful ex-boyfriend linger

Dear Abby: Years ago, I dated an awful guy. He possessed just about every negative quality you could imagine. I dated him because I was immature, depressed and lonely. Since we broke up and I got my mental health back on track, my life has been wonderful. I keep forward in life. I hear through the grapevine that his life, on the other hand, is in shambles.



JEANNE PHILLIPS
DEAR ABBY

I blame myself for wasting the time I did with him. Sometimes when he pops into my head I get sick to my stomach. I'm afraid he might come back into my life and harm me because he blames me for his miserable life and bad choices.

How do you remove such a negative person from your memory? Is it possible to forget?
— *Annoyed in Texas*

Dear Annoyed: Your experiences have made you the person you are, and at this point in your life, you have made yourself successful and happy. Congratulations for that. Now

it's time to stop listening to news about your ex-boyfriend through the grapevine.

When friends bring him up, tell them you aren't interested. If he lives nearby, frequents the same places you do and has threatened you, talk to law enforcement or move. Give it time; time has a way of healing. It's important that you continue getting on with your life. You may find fears will dissipate once you find a new significant other.

Dear Abby: I'm someone who's been chronically hot for as long as I can remember. In winter, I usually wear lighter clothes than most people so I can be comfortable. Unfortunately, complete strangers feel compelled to ask several times a day, "Aren't you cold?" or say, "You're crazy for dressing that way!"

I don't feel I should have to justify my wardrobe, and I think calling someone crazy is out of line. I have pointed out to some people that how I dress is none of their business, at which point they take offense. I don't think my response was inappropriate considering that they were the ones judging me. I'm the one who should have been upset. What can I say to these judgmental people without justifying myself and without evoking an angry response? — *Not Crazy, Just Comfortable*

My question is, how much time should I wait before asking his widow if she saved his hearing aids from the crematorium and if so, could I have them? — *Cheap Minnesotan*

Dear Not Crazy: Most people are curious when they see something "different." Wearing lightweight clothing in the dead of winter qualifies as different. If you are asked, all you need to say is that your body temperature runs hotter than most people's, and you are perfectly comfortable. Period.

Dear Abby: A friend of mine died recently. My question is, how much time should I wait before asking his widow if she saved his hearing aids from the crematorium and if so, could I have them? — *Cheap Minnesotan*

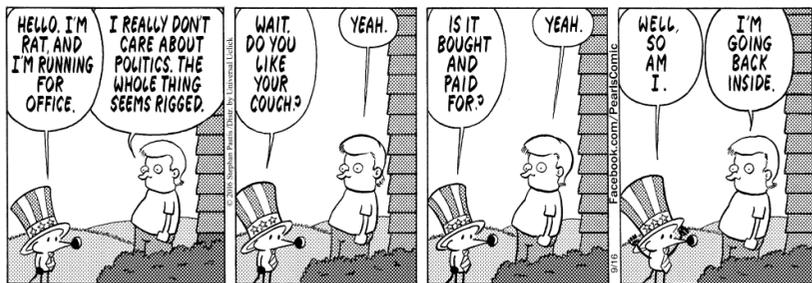
Dear Minnesotan: You didn't mention how long ago your friend died, but if it was yesterday, give the widow a week or two to recover from the shock of her loss. I say this because if you wait too long, somebody else may grab them, but if you ask too soon, she may give you an earful.

Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

TUNDRA by Chad Carpenter



PEARLS BEFORE SWINE by Stephan Pastis



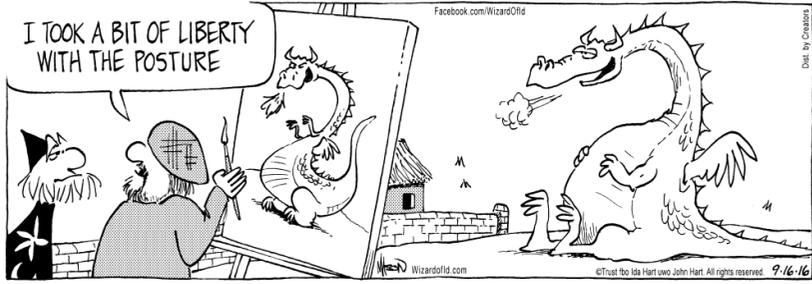
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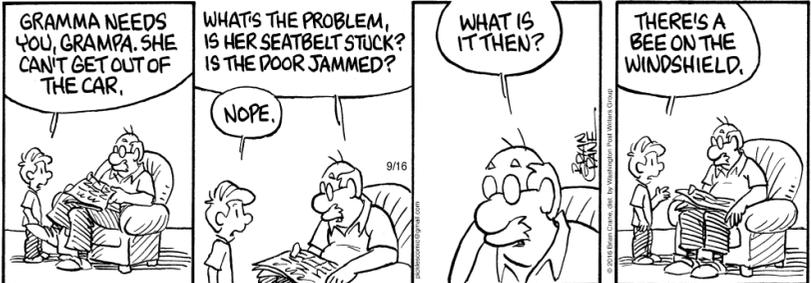
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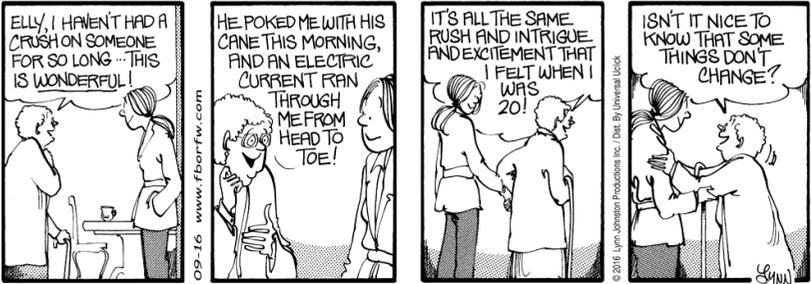
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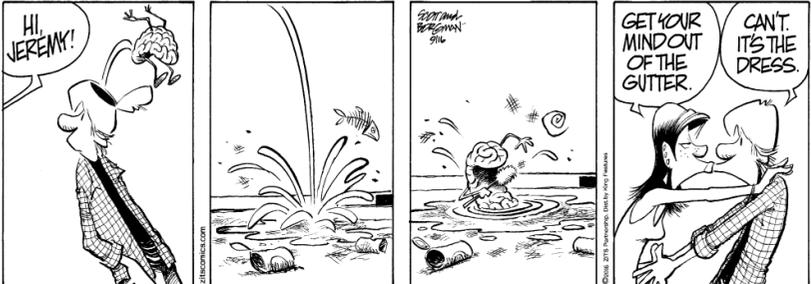
FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE by Lynn Johnston



BABY BLUES by Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman



ZITS by Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman



DUSTIN by Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



Daily Horoscope

ARIES (March 21-April 19). Even though a current interest lights up many parts of your brain and life at once, you are careful not to get so wrapped up with pursuing an important goal that you lose sight of your dearest relationships.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). As for that person who has disappointed you numerous times, you're now starting to get a buildup of resentment. Passivity is no longer the way. Call this person out or get your needs met elsewhere.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You sense that a relationship is changing. There's nothing to fear here and plenty to embrace. All will develop in a wonderful direction for those who stay positive.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). If you have to explain a joke, it's not a joke. The same goes for magic tricks, athletic feats and acts of love. After all, if you didn't experience it as a loving act, how could it be that? Reception will be key today.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). A relationship needs a better pattern — a rhythm that will serve both of you well. The right actions, spaced well and repeated effectively, will make for a beautiful and seemingly effortless connection.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You notice a lot. If you were to bring attention to every little thing that displeases you, you'd be a most unpleasant person to be around. So instead you pick your battles and keep relationships harmoniously improving.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). All this trying to get the timing right, say the perfect thing, act smart — it's too much pressure! Still, it's too soon to give in. Press the pause button. Breathe, relax and think about something else for a while.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Revolutionary change, by definition, happens by force. The revolt is key. You want results, but do you really need them immediately? Might a gradual, gentle change serve just as well?

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). When one option doesn't work out, you don't feel personally rejected any more than a puzzle piece would feel rejected by wrong companion pieces. You've a sense that what's meant to be will be.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Right now it would be pointless to negotiate with the established order. There is a worn path that none involved have reason to stray from. Wait, though: The balance of power will soon be upset and you'll have your opportunity.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You're doing so well in a certain endeavor that you may have worries about managing success. Are you peaking too early? When should you push yourself harder? When should you back off? All quality problems.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). There's more than one way to get unstuck. Don't bang up against the obstacle. You won't nudge it free with direct force. You need a lever: Step back and look again for new perspective and bright answers.



HOLIDAY MATHIS